

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the Cross-Reference to Related Applications at page 1, lines 2-12 with the following Cross-Reference to Related Applications:

-- This application is a continuation of ~~allowed~~ U.S. Patent Application No. 09/948,374, filed September 6, 2001, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,716,962 on April 6, 2004, which application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/286,254, filed April 24, 2001 and is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/760,328, filed January 12, 2001, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,511,962 on January 28, 2003, which claimed the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/219,059, filed July 17, 2000 and United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/220,950, filed July 26, 2000. The above applications are incorporated by reference in their entirety. --

Please replace the original Abstract at page 28 with the following Abstract:

-- The present invention provides a rapid and inexpensive method for extractively isolating acidic lipopeptide antibiotics, such as those having a cyclic peptide or cyclic depsipeptide core, in high yield and purity. In particular, there is provided a method of extracting a variety of acidic lipopeptide antibiotics, directly or indirectly, into water immiscible organic solvents by using a divalent cation chelation procedure. --